

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
Regulatory Branch
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Attn: Diane Ray

RE: **SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION**
Department of the Army
General Permits for the State of Connecticut
CT DEP Permit No.: WQC-201107149

INLAND WATERS, WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341), and except for those activities specifically waived or denied herein, Water Quality Certification is hereby granted with terms, limitations and conditions specified in this Certification for the Department of the Army, General Permits for the State of Connecticut ("GP"), dated July 15, 2016 for activities including but not limited to, the construction or operation of facilities, which may result in any discharge into the waters of the State. Such terms, limitations and conditions are specified in Appendix 1. and in the general conditions contained herein.

Notwithstanding compliance with the terms and conditions of the GP or this Certification, the Commissioner retains discretionary authority to require a regular (individual) Section 401 Certification for any activity deemed by the Commissioner to reasonably likely to have greater than minimal direct, secondary, indirect or cumulative impacts to surface waters of the state.

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341), Water Quality Certification is hereby **waived** in entirety for GP 12., GP 13., GP 14. and GP 15.

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341), Water Quality Certification is hereby **denied** for Self-Verification (SV) for General Permits GP 7. and GP 10., and **denied** in entirety for GP 20. , GP 21. and GP 23.

Applicants seeking a written eligibility determination for Prior Construction Notification (PCN) activities must submit an application on such form as the Commissioner may prescribe and with such information as the Commissioner deems necessary to fulfill the purposes of Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the review and evaluation of such application, the Commissioner will issue either a written eligibility determination of Section 401 Certification upon such terms, limitations or conditions with conditions as the Commissioner deems necessary, or a written determination that a regular (individual) Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for the proposed activity.

Further, pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341), Water Quality Certification is hereby **denied** for the following activities:

Detention or retention of stormwater in inland waters or wetlands including any watercourse or wetland crossing that by design or default functions to provide stormwater detention, and any construction of a stormwater detention or retention basin in inland waters or wetlands.

Piping, boxing, enclosing or covering of inland watercourses for other than a driveway or roadway crossing.

Activities with direct or secondary impact(s) to: Special Wetlands⁽¹⁾, Threatened, Endangered, or Special Concern Species⁽²⁾, or Significant Natural Communities⁽²⁾ identified by the Connecticut Natural Diversity Database.

Activities within a FEMA established floodplain that would adversely affect the hydraulic characteristics of the floodplain⁽³⁾.

TIDAL WATERS AND NAVIGABLE WATERS

With respect to tidal, coastal and navigable waters, Section 401 Water Quality Certification is granted conditionally for Self-Verification (SV) and Preconstruction Notification (PN) eligible activities. The conditional granting of Section 401 Water Quality Certification for SV and PN eligible activities is subject to the applicant obtaining the appropriate Structures, Dredging and Fill authorization, Tidal Wetland authorization, or Coastal Consistency Concurrence, and the Commissioner finding that the activity is reasonably likely to have no more than minimal impact on water quality individually or cumulatively. Substantive evaluations of consistency of individual activities listed under the GP in Section 2, paragraph II.1. with state water quality standards and coastal management policies will be conducted at the time of application.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Section 401 Water Quality Certification granted herein for INLAND WATERS, WATERWAYS AND WETLANDS, WATERS OF THE US and TIDAL, COASTAL AND NAVIGABLE WATERS is further subject to the following conditions:

1. **Rights.** This certificate is subject to and does not derogate any present or future property rights or other rights or powers of the State of Connecticut, and conveys no property rights in real estate or material nor any exclusive privileges, and is further subject to any and all public and private rights and to any federal, state, or local laws or regulations pertinent to the property or activity affected hereby. This certification does not comprise the permits or approvals as may be required by Chapters 440, 446i, 446j and 446k of the Connecticut General Statutes.

2. **Expiration of Certificate.** The Section 401 Water Quality Certifications contained herein shall be valid until such time as the Department of the Army General Permits for the State of Connecticut expires or is modified, suspended, revoked or reissued.
3. **Compliance with Certificate.** All work and all activities authorized herein conducted by the permittee at the site shall be consistent with the terms and conditions of this certificate. Any regulated activities carried out at the site, including but not limited to, construction of any structure, excavation, fill, obstruction, or encroachment, that are not specifically identified and authorized herein shall constitute a violation of this certificate and may result in its modification, suspension, or revocation. In carrying out the certified discharge(s) authorized herein, the permittee shall not store equipment or construction material, or discharge any material including without limitation, fill, construction materials or debris in any wetland or watercourse on or off site unless specifically authorized by this certificate. Upon initiation of the activities authorized herein, the permittee thereby accepts and agrees to comply with the terms and conditions of this certificate.
4. **Transfer of Certificate.** This authorization is not transferable without the written consent of the Commissioner.
5. **Reliance on Application.** In evaluating the permittee's application, the Commissioner has relied on information provided by the permittee. If such information subsequently proves to be false, deceptive, incomplete or inaccurate, this certificate may be modified, suspended or revoked.
6. **Best Management Practices.** In constructing or maintaining the activities authorized herein, the permittee shall employ best management practices, consistent with the terms and conditions of this certificate, to control storm water discharges and erosion and sedimentation and to prevent pollution. Such practices to be implemented by the permittee at the site include, but are not necessarily limited to:
 - a. Prohibiting dumping of any quantity of oil, chemicals or other deleterious material on the ground;
 - b. Immediately informing the Commissioner's Oil and Chemical Spill Response Division at (860) 424-3338 (24 hours) of any adverse impact or hazard to the environment, including any discharges, spillage, or loss of oil or petroleum or chemical liquids or solids, which occurs or is likely to occur as the direct or indirect result of the activities authorized herein;
 - c. Separating staging areas at the site from the regulated areas by silt fences or straw/hay bales at all times;
 - d. Prohibiting storage of any fuel and refueling of equipment within twenty-five (25) feet from any wetland or watercourse;

- e. Preventing pollution of wetlands and watercourses in accordance with the document "Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control" as revised. Said controls shall be inspected by the permittee for deficiencies at least once per week and immediately after each rainfall and at least daily during prolonged rainfall. The permittee shall correct any such deficiencies within 48 hours of said deficiencies being found;
- f. Stabilizing disturbed soils in a timely fashion to minimize erosion. If a grading operation at the site will be suspended for a period of thirty (30) or more consecutive days, the permittee shall, within the first seven (7) days of that suspension period, accomplish seeding and mulching or take such other appropriate measures to stabilize the soil involved in such grading operation. Within seven (7) days after establishing final grade in any grading operation at the site the permittee shall seed and mulch the soil involved in such grading operation or take such other appropriate measures to stabilize such soil until seeding and mulching can be accomplished.
- g. Prohibiting the storage of any materials at the site which are buoyant, hazardous, flammable, explosive, soluble, expansive, radioactive, or which could in the event of a flood be injurious to human, animal or plant life, below the elevation of the five hundred (500) year flood. Any other material or equipment stored at the site below said elevation by the permittee or the permittee's contractor must be firmly anchored, restrained or enclosed to prevent flotation. The quantity of fuel stored below such elevation for equipment used at the site shall not exceed the quantity of fuel that is expected to be used by such equipment in one day.
- h. Immediately informing the Commissioner's Inland Water Resources Division at (860) 424-3019 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Permit Compliance Section at (617) 647-8674, of the occurrence of pollution or other environmental damage resulting from construction or maintenance of the authorized activity or any construction associated therewith in violation of this certificate. The permittee shall, no later than 48 hours after the permittee learns of a violation of this certificate, report same in writing to the Commissioner. Such report shall contain the following information:
 - (i) the provision(s) of this certificate that has been violated;
 - (ii) the date and time the violation(s) was first observed and by whom;
 - (iii) the cause of the violation(s), if known
 - (iv) if the violation(s) has ceased, the duration of the violation(s) and the exact date(s) and times(s) it was corrected;
 - (v) if the violation(s) has not ceased, the anticipated date when it will be corrected;
 - (vi) steps taken and steps planned to prevent a reoccurrence of the violation(s) and the date(s) such steps were implemented or will be implemented;
 - (vii) the signatures of the permittee and of the individual(s) responsible for actually preparing such report, each of whom shall certify said report in accordance with condition 7 of this certificate.

For information and technical assistance, contact the Inland Water Resources Division at (860) 424-3019.

7. **Certification of Documents.** Any document, including but not limited to any notice, which is required to be submitted to the Commissioner under this certificate shall be signed by the permittee, a responsible corporate officer of the permittee, a general partner of the permittee, or a duly authorized representative of the permittee and by the individual or individuals responsible for actually preparing such document, each of whom shall certify in writing as follows:

"I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and certify that based on reasonable investigation, including my inquiry of those individuals responsible for obtaining the information, the submitted information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that any false statement made in this document or its attachments may be punishable as a criminal offense in accordance with Section 22a-6 under Section 53a-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes."

8. **Submission of Documents.** The date of submission to the Commissioner of any document required by this certificate shall be the date such document is received by the Commissioner. Except as otherwise specified in this certificate, the word "day" as used in this certificate means the calendar day. Any document or action which falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday shall be submitted or performed by the next business day thereafter.

Any document or notice required to be submitted to the Commissioner under this certificate shall, unless otherwise specified in writing by the Commissioner, be directed to:

Director, Inland Water Resources Division
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127

Issued by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection on

Michael Sullivan
Deputy Commissioner

DEFINITIONS

(1) **Special Wetlands:** Include vernal pools, bogs, fens, cedar swamps, spruce swamps, calcareous seepage swamps, and wetlands that provide habitat for threatened or endangered species or species of special concern as designated by the State of Connecticut Natural Diversity Database. The following definitions for bogs, calcareous seepage wetlands, cedar swamps, fens, spruce swamps, and vernal pools apply for the purposes of this GP:

Bog: a peat accumulating wetland dominated by sphagnum moss. Typical plant species include sphagnum moss, leatherleaf, black spruce, pitcher plant and sundew.

Calcareous Seepage Swamp: a forested wetland characterized by the discharge of groundwater with a chemistry influenced by an underlying limestone geology.

Cedar Swamp: a forested wetland characterized by the presence of Northern White Cedar or Atlantic White Cedar.

Fen: a peat accumulating wetland dominated by sedges and/or ericaceous shrubs. Typical plant species include low sedges, ericaceous shrubs, sphagnum and other mosses.

Spruce Swamp: a forested wetland characterized by the presence of Red or Black Spruce.

Vernal Pool: an often temporary body of water occurring in a shallow depression of natural or human origin that fills during spring rains and snow melt and typically dries up during summer months. Vernal pools support populations of species specially adapted to reproducing in these habitats. Such species may include wood frogs, mole salamanders (*Ambystoma* sp.), fairy shrimp, fingernail clams, and other amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates. Vernal pools lack breeding populations of fish. **All vernal pools are subject to the jurisdiction of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection under Connecticut Water Quality Standards.**

(2) **Threatened, Endangered or Special Concern Species; Significant Natural Communities:** Species listed by CT DEP pursuant to Chapter 495 of the Connecticut General Statute as threatened or endangered species or species of special concern. Known locations of threatened and endangered species and species of special concern, and significant natural communities are identified on maps entitled “State and Federal Listed Species and Significant Natural Communities“, as amended.

(3) **Adverse Effect to Hydraulic Characteristics:** An adverse effect to hydraulic characteristics includes an increase in flood water surface elevation, an increase in flood flow velocity or a restriction of flood flow conveyance in a manner that would impact upstream, downstream or adjacent property.